

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, July 4. 1706.

HOW unhappy a Case is the Church of *England* in, that every thing done in her Name, however did own'd by her Practice and Professors, is charg'd upon her as her own Doing; and he that offers to detect the ill Practices of those, who have abus'd the Protection of the *Church*, shall be charg'd with attacking the *Church*!

Thus the Author of this is charg'd with renewing the Attacks upon the *Church*, by a Preface lately wrote to Mr. *Delaw's* Plea for the *Non-Conformists*, by complaining of the Treatment the *Dissenters* met with in those Days.

That the *Dissenters* were persecuted, plundered, and murther'd in Jayl, there is no room to deny; to say it was not for their Religion, because they might meet 5 in a place, 'tis a most miserable Shift—

And merits no Answer—Assembling themselves together, which the *Scripture* commands them not to forsake, can never be understand to signifie, in a place; a pretty Sort of Liberty indeed.—We own therefore they were persecuted for not yeilding to separate their Assemblies into fives, in which Case their publick Worship must be abandon'd, their Ministers not able to officiate, and they must forsake assembling, which is expressly forbidden—For obeying this Command of God rather than Man, they were persecuted, fined, jayl'd, murther'd, and plundered, and this I call Persecution for Religion, let others call it what they please. I forbear entring into the List of the 8000 I mention'd, which is not hard to procure, if Mr. *White* be enquir'd of; but I bury the Memory of it in Silence, as the Law has

has bury'd the Practice in a legal Toleration ; at which these Gentlemen appear to be angry, and would account it a sufficient Toleration to have the *Dissenters* gratif'd with that wonderful Liberty of meeting five at a time.

Now, he that will have a Complaint of this persecuting the *Dissenters*, be an Arrow shot at the *Church*, must first acknowledge, that the *Church*, as such, really did persecute them, which I frankly deny. I allow, a great many of the Clergy and other Members of the *Church of England* fell in with the State Plot, and endeavour'd ignorantly enough to pull the Scandal of Persecution upon the *Church*. Whereas it was really a State Project, a mere Plot against the Protestant Religion in general, to keep the *Dissenters* and the *Church* eternally embroil'd.

Those Gentlemen therefore that will have me always be attacking the *Church*, when I complain of, or reflect upon the Actions of some of her Members, really attack the *Church* themselves, which is far from being accountable for all the Actions of those, who call themselves Members of her Communion.

Thus when I have charg'd some of the Inferior Clergy with gross Immoralities, when I say, if *Words were Treason*, two third's of them would be hang'd : When I exclaim at their Treatment of the Queen, the Government, and the *Low Church*-Men, pray, what's all this to the *Church*? 'Tis her Disaster to have such Members ; 'tis her Scandal, that the disciplinary Part of her Constitution does not expel them! 'Tis the Nation's Unhappiness, they are not decently reprov'd, check'd and corrected—But the *Church* in her Constitution, Doctrine, or real Being, and Authority, is not the worse, nor is she touch'd with these things.

When I search some odd and unaccountable things put upon the *Church*, such as acting Plays to contribute to her Edifices, and so making her a Tool to protect the Stage ; This may touch some in the *Church*, and if a whole Vestry shares the Folly, what's that to the *Church* her self? She stands untainted, unsullied with the black Bullies of her Professors, or the ridiculous

and preposterous Projects of those *Mounse-bank* Reformers, the *Church-wardens*.

Once for all therefore, I renew my Declaration, often made to the World in like Cases, and with which I close this Subject.

I profess to believe the *Church of England* a true Christian Church, in the Profession of whose Principles a Christian may be sav'd.

That her Doctrine is sound and orthodox ; and I chearfully subscribe to all her Doctrinal Articles, and humbly think, the Differences we have with her are far from being a sufficient Ground for such Animosities, Feuds, and ill Nature, as some People foment among us.

For her reverend, pious, sober and judicious Clergy, I profess a profound Veneration and Respect ; and if I knew any thing, I had either said or done to injure, reproach, or lessen them or the *Church* it self, I would humbly acknowledge the Error, and ask their Pardon.

I sincerely and earnestly wish the Establishment and Continuance of the Civil Government of this Nation in the Hands of the *Church* ; and believe all the *Dissenters* in *England*, who understand their own Interest, do so too, being fully pleas'd and contented with that legal Toleration which is their just Right to demand ; and which the *Church of England*, to the eternal Honour both of her Justice and Charity, has made Part of the *English Constitution*.

But what's all this to the purpose? The *Antagonists* of this Paper will not allow those, I speak of, to be the *Church* of *England* ; but the *High Church*-men only are really the *Church* of *England*.

In this Case, I would desire a certain Gentleman, when a Volume of his *Rebarks* are finish'd, to have them bound up with a clean Piece of Paper, interleav'd between every Page, to keep the Sheets from quarrelling.

Here has been some furious Attacks by that Gentleman upon the *Observator*, and this Paper ; about who has got our late Victory, and who are Enemies to the Duke of *Marlborough*.

Now if I must speak out of this Gentleman's own Paper, and show where it points diamet-

diametrically against it self; I must tell him, they were not *Church men* that got the Victory, but *REBELLS*? *Rebells* fought the Battle of *Ramellies*, *Rebells* reliev'd *Barcelona*, *Rebells* drove away the *French Fleet*, and *Rebells* are now pushing Victory to its due Height against the *French*.

Whigs, that is, *Rebells*, says Mr. *Rehearsal* in one Paper—And yet in another, they are all *Church of England Men* that fought the *French*, and every Soldier takes the *Sacrament*, &c. tho' he may be a *Whig* for all that, and in which he forgot himself strangely, as the *Observator* has effectually told him; for not one Word of it is Fact.

Now pray, Gentlemen, *who is a Whig?* — 'Tis most certain, he is a *Church-man* that takes the *Sacrament* in the *Church of England*—What then, he is a *Rebell* for all that? For he is a *Low Church-man*, and that is a *Whig*, and a *Whig* is a *Rebell*.

If then there are any *Whigs* in the Army, if my *Lord Peterborough*, my *Lord Galway*, or any of our *Generals* are *Low Church-men*, they are then all *Whigs*, that is, all *Rebells* and *Betrayers* of the *Church*, and of the *QUEEN* according to Mr. *Rehearsal*?

Certainly, there are abundance of *Whigs* in the Army; if not, that famous *High Church Gentleman*, who said, the *Danger of the Church was plain*, because both *QUEEN*, *Army*, and *Navy*, were in the *Hands of the Whigs*, was very much out.

'Tis a hard Case, Gentlemen, that our *QUEEN*, *Army*, and *Navy*, are in the *Hands of Rebells*—Pray, therefore Mr. *Rehearsal*, use me so fairly to make this out, since you will not answer other Queries, who are those People you call *Whigs*? and who are those you call *Rebells*? and expect no farther Debates with me, till like a fair Adversary, you answer what is propos'd, before you run on tick for more?

Again, there has been a great Attempt made here by the same Gentleman, to prove, the *Whigs* hate the *Duke of Marlborough*, and my *Lord Peterborough*; the contrary to which is plainly laid down, viz. That the *High Church-men* are their Friends.

In such Cases as these, there are no Proofs like *Miters of Fact*, in order to which I shall only refer the Reader to a Passage, no older, than since the late *Victory*, and

which if any Man question the Truth of, my Record's in my Satchel.

In a certain County of *England*, not far *North of London*—And the first Letters of which sound very much lik: *Hertfordshire*, an *Address* was set on Foot to be presented to the *QUEEN*, to congratulate her *Majesty* on the *Subject* of the late *Victories*, with which it had pleas'd Almighty *God* to bless the *Arms* of her *Majesty*, and her *Allies*, under the glorious *Conduct* of her great *Generals* the *Duke of Marlborough*, and the *Earl of Peterborough*.

This being offer'd to most of the *Gentlemen* of the *Country*, all the *Rebells*, that is, the *Whigs*, sign'd it heartily; all the *Enemies* to the *QUEEN* and the *Church*, that is, the *Dis-senters* sign'd it heartily.—But one noted *high Gentleman*, whom not the *Tower of London* could reform, refus'd to sign this *Address*, unless he might be admitted to sign it above those *Words*, that seein'd to recognize the *Merit* of the *Duke of Marlborough*, and the *Earl of Peterborough*.

Whether this Gentleman's Refusal affects his *Respect* to the *QUEEN*, is not to the purpose; but certainly, it was no *Token* of his wonderful *Respect* to the *Duke of Marlborough*; I think, that is plain.

Now, whether this Gentleman be a *Dis-senter*, a *Low Church-man*, or a *High red hot Church man*, I do not determine; but whoever pleases to ask Mr. *C—r of Hertford*, what sort he was of, I am perswaded, may be inform'd fully in that Article; and so may determine, who are Friends to the *Duke of Marlborough*.

Then also let them enquire, who it was the *Mayor of Hertford* went out to meet, with a *Rabble* that he call'd *Gentry*, and the *Formalities* of the *Corporation*, making a *Cavalcade*, or *publick Entry* for a Gentleman, that the *House of Commons* had cō-rected for insulting the *QUEEN*, and her *Ministers of State*, in the *Face* of that *Assembly*.

Also let them enquire, whether the *Mayor* did not, by the *Action* approve, what that Gentleman had done; affront the *Justice* of the *House of Commons*, and make himself a *Party* to Mr. *C—r's Offence*, testi-